

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Applicant by the instant amendment has canceled non-elected process claims 13-17. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on the process of the present invention which was previously the subject of a restriction requirement.

Applicant has rewritten previously submitted dependent claim 18 as independent claim 25. Previously submitted dependent claim 20 is presented as new independent claim 26. Previously submitted dependent claim 21 is now presented as new independent claim 27. Finally, previously submitted dependent claim 23 is now presented as new independent claim 28.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited and applied prior art references teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter of claims 25 through 28 as now pending.

With regard to new independent claim 25, the Examiner in his last Office action has applied the following references:

EP 0 945 069;
EP 0 920 810;
WO 98/52425; and
US 5,635,230.

It is respectfully submitted that none of these cited documents teach, suggest or render obvious the apparatus as now claimed in independent claim 25. None of the cited references teach a temperature-controlled ram having an axial bore in a displacement arm movably mounted within the axial bore wherein the displacement arm is selectively displaced within the axial bore of the temperature-controlled ram for movement into and out of the mold. If the Examiner is to maintain his rejection of claim 25 based on these documents, the Examiner is requested to specifically point

out that portion of the specification and the drawings which show the subject matter now claimed in independent claim 25.

The same references noted above were applied by the Examiner in rejecting previously submitted dependent claim 20. New independent claim 26 sets forth the subject matter of dependent claim 20 in independent form. Again, there is nothing in any of the prior art references which suggest the temperature-controlled ram having an axial bore with a tube located within the axial bore which tube communicates with the molds, a pressure source of gas connected to the tube and means for supplying the gas from the source through the tube and into the mold. Again, if the Examiner is to reject claim 26 over the cited documents, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out with specificity where in each of the references the foregoing structure is shown in the drawings and disclosed.

The Examiner employed the same references cited above against previously submitted dependent claim 21. New independent claim 27 sets forth the subject matter of dependent claim 21 in independent form. Claim 27 recites a temperature-controlled ram comprising a porous internal space and a flexible sheet surrounding the porous internal space. The claim further goes on to set forth a source of cooling water under pressure and means for feeding the cooling water under pressure to the porous internal space of the temperature-controlled ram to expand the flexible sheet within the mold. There is nothing in any of the prior art references to suggest this particular structure. If the Examiner is to reject claim 27 over the aforesaid prior art, the Examiner is again respectfully requested to point out with specificity where the teachings of the structure of independent claim 27 are shown in the cited references.

Finally, the Examiner rejected previously submitted dependent

claim 23 over the same four prior art documents. New independent claim 28 recites the subject matter of previously submitted dependent claim 23 in independent form. Claim 28 calls for a temperature-controlled ram comprising a porous internal space and a shell of rigid material surrounding the porous internal space. The claim goes on to set forth that the shell is provided with a passage which communicates the porous internal space with the mold. The claim further sets forth that the passage is covered by a diaphragm. The claims further recites a source of cooling water under pressure and means for feeding the cooling water under pressure to the porous internal space of the temperature-controlled ram for expanding the diaphragm into the mold. The prior art fails to teach such a structure. Again, as noted above, if claim 28 is to be rejected over the same prior art documents the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out with specificity where the structure claimed in claim 28 is shown in the prior art.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as now pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

A request for a two month extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this

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case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit
Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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